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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 18, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LOIS CAPPS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Draw near, O Lord, our God. Graciously hear us. We know You as ultimately powerful, ultimately wise, and ultimately good. By Your power, we believe, our weakness is helped. By Your wisdom, our ignorance is corrected; and by Your goodness, our iniquity is washed away.

Turned to You in prayer and with expectations throughout this day, may both our intentions and our behavior give You glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HARMAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1789. An act to restore fairness to Federal cocaine sentencing.

S. 2865. An act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, in a few hours, the House leadership will finally introduce a rescission package on health care which will reduce our deficit over the next two decades to lower numbers than would either the House-passed or Senate-passed health bills. As a Blue Dog, I commend this.

But I stand here this morning specifically to say that information just released by the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I serve, shows a very favorable impact on my district from the bill, which I intend to support.

I have received thousands of calls and emails from constituents. I will post this information on my Web site immediately after speaking this morning.

But in a nutshell, the bill improves coverage for 427,000 of my constituents who already have health care. It gives tax credits and other assistance to up to 137,000 families and 15,100 small businesses. It improves Medicare coverage for 81,000 constituents by helping to close the doughnut hole. It extends coverage to 67,500 uninsured, guarantees coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, and permits kids under 26 to stay on their parents' policies.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER COSTS TOO MUCH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as backroom deals and threats continue to force a health care takeover vote, the costs from the Congressional Budget Office have just been released of nearly \$1 trillion. State leaders across the country have recognized that this takeover could bankrupt our great Nation.

Just yesterday, the State treasurer for Massachusetts, Tim Cahill, said, "If President Obama and the Democrats repeat the mistakes of the health insurance mandate in Massachusetts on a national level, they will bankrupt this country within 4 years."

Other State leaders have expressed great concerns about unfunded mandates. South Carolina is one of 36 legislatures considering barring individuals from being compelled to purchase health insurance. I applaud State leaders who are fighting Big Government mandates which the NFIB estimates will kill 1.6 million jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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